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The Daily Gamecock

dailygamecock.com

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2007

VOL. 101, NO. 4 ● SINCE 1908

Award reflects professor's talent in field

Texas Broadcasters Association honors USC's Grant

Melanie Griffin
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Texas Broadcasters Association named journalism professor Augie Grant Educator of the Year this summer, returning him to his academic roots.

"I was surprised and very humbled," he said.

Grant worked with the Texas Broadcasters Association for 24 years and his first teaching job was in the state.

"Even after I left Texas, I kept my connections," Grant said. He credited technology for allowing him to stay close to his beginnings.

"To see this industry and how much it does — it's a pretty incredible thing," Grant said. "The same technology I teach about allows me, even though I'm living in South Carolina, to do everything I would do in Texas if I were there."

Colleague Dr. Lisa Sisk, a public relations professor, said the award reflects Grant's talent.

"I'm personally very proud of him," she said. "I love that it's a Texas award. It illustrates how his reach is far beyond South Carolina."

Grant began a career in local broadcasting while earning a bachelor's degree at the University of Florida,

where he returned for a master's degree.

He then joined the faculty of the Radio-Television-Film Department at Sam Houston State University. After completing his doctorate at the University of Southern California, he joined the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin.

"The best part of teaching is helping a student find the 'ah-ha' moments, helping a student who is trying to understand how a process works and taking them to the point where they figure out where their place is," he said.

In 1996, Grant first taught at USC as a visiting professor. He started full time at Carolina a year later. He left for two years during the Internet boom; from 1998 to 2000, he was market research director for 2Wire, Inc., a telecommunications start-up in San Jose, Calif.

"I had a former student who offered me the opportunity to be the director of entertainment for an Internet start-up company," he said. "Things like that only come along once in a lifetime, so I said, 'Well, I'll take the chance.'"

He returned to USC in 2002, combining the study of traditional and emerging media with emphasis on media management, organizational structure, integrated communication, and consumer behavior.

Grant primarily teaches research classes, but also



Alison Stinchcomb/ THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Augie Grant of the journalism school won the Texas Broadcasters Association's professor of the year award.

teaches new media — journalism slang for news on the Internet.

"I love it when my undergraduates come from one of his research classes because I know they know what they're doing," Sisk said.

In addition to his teaching, Grant has been an industry consultant — some of his clients have included the Fox Broadcasting Network, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Group W Productions and Nielsen Media Research — and is the

editor of Communication Technology Update, a semi-annual review of the latest developments in consumer electronics, telephony, electronic mass media, and satellite technology.

Since 2005, he has been the Director of Training

for USC's AMBER Alert training program, which helps find missing children.

"I like his outlook," said Sisk. "He pays attention to his students and has fun."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu



Alison Stinchcomb / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Rapper Mikhael Sampson, 4th year media arts student, performs at Open Mic, sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha

Online tickets not ready yet

Security issues push launch date to January 2008

Tas Anjarwalla
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

An online ticket distribution system that has been in the works for almost three years has been pushed back again and is now expected to make its debut this January in time for the 2008 basketball season.

Students say they'd like the convenience an online system would bring, but will continue to wait in line for tickets at the Russell House in the meantime.

The Student Government's Athletics Committee said three years ago that it wanted online ticketing by spring 2005 but has run into problems and delays. When the athletics department started selling tickets online, the student government wanted to adapt that system for students.

"The problem was that their system was good for buying and selling tickets — not for distributing them to students," said Jerry Brewer, student life director.

Worries about the security of student's personal information halted

the program's aim to give out tickets online last fall. The ticket office said then that the system would be up and running for the spring 2007 basketball season, but it was not.

"Like any other type of system, we want to make one that works," said Kent Hegenauer, USC manager of ticket operations. "We have to be 100 percent certain no technical glitches will arise."

SG Cabinet member Andrew Gaeckle oversees athletics programs for Student Body President Nick Payne. Gaeckle, a third-year international studies student, said there's no doubt online tickets will be available by mid-January.

"No maybes this time," he said.

Students will print tickets from home, via VIP. They can print as many as they want, but the tickets will have the student's name printed on them, with a barcode that can only be scanned once, Gaeckle said.

He wasn't sure if paper tickets would still be offered in the spring and for next year's football season.

A seven-member student committee will work out details this semester for the system. Gaeckle said the committee will discuss

the idea of "loyalty points," where fans who went to more games would have a better chance of getting tickets to Southeastern Conference games or the Clemson game.

In the meantime, students still get their tickets the old-fashioned way: waiting in line at the Russell House. Tickets for Saturday's football game against Louisiana-Lafayette were handed out Monday. Students waited in line beginning in the wee hours of the morning. Tickets ran out by 4:45 that afternoon.

"I got up extra early to make sure I'd have a ticket," said second-year business student Justin Langford. "It would be nice if there were an easier way to get them. I was worried I would miss class."

Caitlin Bradley, a first-year visual communication student, said the online ticketing system should have been up and running sooner.

"Other universities have the same program available to their students," Bradley said. "It seems like a lack of commitment on the school's part that the system isn't even available — and I hate waiting in line."

Hegenauer said his office is "shooting" for the system to be up this spring, but didn't say that was definite.

Brewer was more confident.

He said his department has worked with the registrar's office to ensure the system's security, a priority that trumps convenience.

"If we offer a service to the students, we have to make sure that we keep their records secure," Brewer said. "This is our biggest issue as of now."

The years of delay have made some students cynical.

"If it's taken three years to get nowhere, we'll be lucky to be able to get our tickets online by the next football season," said first-year biology student Cory Curtis. "I seriously doubt the school will have the service up by January."

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Five Points vendors split on parking meters

Merchants disagree on pros, cons of downtown parking

Melanie Griffin
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Parking meters in Five Points have earned mixed reviews from downtown businesses and students.

Some say the change gives more spaces to customers instead of employees, but others hate the addition and say parking should be free.

Debbie McDaniel, owner of Revente consignment shop, has worked at retail stores in the downtown village since the mid-1970s and has seen the parking situation change over time.

"In the old days, there were only a few restaurants," she said, which kept open parking spaces for customers of shops and boutiques. Through the years, more eateries sprung up and more restaurant employees used those spots, a problem McDaniel said is helped by the meters.

"My business hasn't been hurt" by the meters, she said. "I give a token worth one hour of parking to everyone who makes a purchase at my store."

Other business owners, such as Dean Ellison of The Gentleman's Closet, think the meters should go.

"They make customers mad," Ellison said.

Until meters were installed, spaces were free for up to an hour and a half, which made enforcing individual parking time difficult. Now, meters in Five Points are enforced from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. six days a week, and are free on Sundays.

Meters can't be re-fed after the allotted time, 15 to 30 minutes. Violators can be ticketed up to three times a day.

"It's more of an exact time with meters," said Tim Smith, owner of Papa Jazz Record Shoppe. "Without them, someone could've been there half the day. They make it easier to give out tickets."

Students also find the meters troublesome.

"I think they're a pain," said third-year English student Elizabeth Turner. "You always have to have quarters; they don't take any other coins like nickels or dimes."

Turner said because parking is scarce she often has to walk a couple blocks to get where she's going.

"It's not very safe," she said.

Construction is another issue that complicates the downtown-parking situation.

"It's already hard to park with construction going on," Smith said. "The meters put a bad taste in people's mouth."

"Malls have free parking,"



Alison Stinchcomb / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Not all Five Points store owners are on board with Columbia's new parking meters.

Ellison said. "We should too."

Developers are trying to get permission from the city to build a six-story structure where Kenny's Auto used to

be, but have run into delays. The structure would include a two-story parking garage.

Columbia also recently updated city parking meters, so most now take a

SmartCard or tokens.

Check out our past stories on parking issues in Columbia at <http://www.dailygamecock.com>.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

NEWSBRIEFS

SC students receiving college credit for AP classes reaches high

The number of South Carolina students who earned college credit after taking advanced courses in high school reached an all-time high this year, according to results released Tuesday by state education officials.

Nearly 15,000 students scored high enough on Advanced Placement tests to receive college credit, almost 1,500 more than last year, the College Board reported.

Students also took 1,980 additional tests for a total of 26,117 exams.

In South Carolina, every student enrolled in Advanced Placement courses

must take the test. The state has paid students' test fees since 1984.

To earn credit, students must score between a 3 and 5 on a five-point AP scale. How much credit is awarded depends on the college.

"Our AP classes have top-quality teachers, an intense focus on clearly understood goals and high expectations for all kids," said state Education Superintendent Jim Rex. "We need to approach every class that way, not just AP classes."

The College Board offers 37 exams in 22 subjects. In South Carolina, the five most-taken AP exams remain United States history, English literature and composition, English language and composition, calculus AB and biology.

Man pleads guilty to voluntary manslaughter in shooting death

CHARLESTON - An Orangeburg County man pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the shooting death of a man found on a North Charleston street.

Kendall Corbett was sentenced Monday to 25 years in prison for killing 31-year-old Thomas Tremaine Hook in March 2006.

Hook died at a hospital 11 hours after police said he was robbed, shot five times and dumped out of a truck. Before his death, Hook told police that Corbett stole his wallet and shot him, according to a police report.

Spanish-speaking flocks extend linguistic horizons

Hispanic churches turn to English to target U.S. Latinos

Eric Gorski
The Associated Press

CHICAGO - On Sundays at La Casa del Carpintero, or the Carpenter's House, they've raised twin yellow banners for churchgoers that read "Welcome" and "Bienvenidos."

As a complement to the regular 11:30 a.m. Spanish service at the independent Pentecostal church, where they've worshipped Papi for years, there's now a 9:30 a.m. English one where the faithful praise God the Father.

While churches from every

imaginable tradition have been adding Spanish services to meet the needs of new immigrants, an increasing number of Hispanic ethnic congregations are going the other way—starting English services.

It's an effort to meet the demands of second- and third-generation Hispanics, keep families together and reach non-Latinos.

In some cases, the greater English emphasis has contributed to an emerging phenomenon: evangelical Protestant megachurches drawing crowds in the thousands that aren't white and suburban, but Hispanic and anchored in the inner city.

There are perhaps 15 or 20 Protestant

megachurches in the U.S. that are majority Hispanic, said Scott Thumma, who studies megachurches at the Hartford Institute for Religion Research. But he predicted a considerable increase in the next decade, particularly in states with large Hispanic populations.

Hispanic churches are part of the United States' long tradition of religious congregations bonded by common ethnicity or language. While Italian and Irish Catholic parishes and other examples have largely faded from view, Hispanic churches are poised to endure thanks to high birth rates, close proximity to Latin America and the sheer numbers of people seeking a

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Crime Report

Sunday, August 26

Malicious Injury to Personal Property
918 Barnwell Street (Columbia Hall)
Tut Bake pushed in the Plexiglas of a vending machine in the lobby of Columbia Hall. The video from the security camera is being reviewed.

Monday, August 27

Larceny of Wallet
1523 Greene Street (LeConte, Room 218A)
Victim called USC PD when she realized her wallet was missing. Inside the wallet were the victim's Social Security, credit, debit and ID cards. The victim's debit card was used at an ATM before all cards were cancelled.

Tuesday, August 28

Two Counts of Unlawful Possession of

Grand Larceny of Laptop
1334 Sumter Street (Psychology)
An unknown person entered the victim's office by unknown means and then stole a silver Dell Latitude laptop computer. There were no signs of forced entry.
Estimated value: \$2,171.31.

Controlled Substance, Driving Under Suspension, Operating an Unsafe Vehicle
Pickens Street and Blossom Street intersection
An officer followed a red Honda Accord for three blocks before the driver, Crystal Owens, pulled over. She said her driver's license was suspended. Upon searching Owens' car, the officer found 14 pills of different colors. The pills weren't prescribed for Owens; she said she obtained them from friends.

Compiled by Katie Jones

Blanco called as witness in Katrina evacuation case

La. Gov. takes stand in trial over Katrina nursing home deaths

Mary Foster
The Associated Press

ST. FRANCISVILLE, La. - Gov. Kathleen Blanco told a jury Tuesday that she feared many people didn't realize that a killer hurricane was bearing down on the state during the last weekend of August 2005, and that many others would decide to ride that storm out.

But Blanco, testifying in the negligent homicide trial of two nursing home owners who lost 35 patients in the storm, said she left it to local officials to decide whether a mandatory evacuation was in order.

"I did not issue that order because all the local governments were deeply engaged in getting out the word and helping people to evacuate," Blanco said.

Prosecutors called the governor as a witness after she fought a subpoena from attorneys for Mabel and Salvador Mangano, the husband and wife who own St. Rita's nursing home.

The Manganos face 35 counts of negligent homicide. Prosecutors say they should have evacuated their patients from the nursing home in St. Bernard Parish, a coastal parish near New Orleans that was wiped out by flooding when Katrina hit.

Defense attorneys say Blanco and other public

officials failed to organize an effective evacuation and help transport "at risk" people to high ground.

The storm hit on the morning of Aug. 29, 2005.

Under questioning by assistant attorney general Burton Guidry, Blanco said that until late in the day on Friday, Aug. 26, it appeared Katrina would hit Florida. She issued an emergency order at 10 p.m. that night after the state was placed on the edge of the forecast track.

She described three news conferences that she held on Saturday, two days before the storm struck. She said she feared that many people did not realize the storm was heading for Louisiana and that many would not evacuate, especially those who had spent hours stuck on the road a year earlier during an evacuation for Hurricane Ivan.

"I was concerned that a lot of people did not even know about it Saturday night," Blanco said. "I was concerned that people would not want to get on the highways."

She said 1.3 million people evacuated in the 36 hours before Katrina hit. However, she said under cross examination that she left it to local officials to decide whether to call mandatory evacuations.

Blanco acknowledged she was familiar with testimony before congress in which Johnny Bradbury, head of the state Department of Transportation and Development, said nothing was done by the state to

assist nursing homes with transportation to evacuate.

But, she said, Bradbury would only have had that responsibility if his department had received a request for help, Blanco said.

"If they had contacted the state we would have had emergency transportation for them," Blanco said.

Blanco said that when Hurricane Rita struck Louisiana, 3 1/2 weeks after Katrina, she worked to line up hundreds of buses in advance. "We learned our lesson," she said.

Blanco testified that after Katrina the state received multiple requests from nursing homes for help in evacuating residents.

"There was a tremendous amount of pleading for help, including citizens, nursing homes and from hospitals," Blanco said.

Blanco was on the stand for three hours, acknowledging early on that she was nervous and explaining that she'd never testified in a trial before.

The Manganos' trial was moved to St. Francisville, about 100 miles northwest of St. Bernard Parish, because it would have been difficult finding jurors in the slowly recovering parish.

The Louisiana Supreme Court rejected Blanco's attempt to avoid testifying in the trial. An attorney for the Democratic governor, who is not running for reelection, said Blanco was not the best person to answer attorney's questions.



Tim Mueller / The Associated Press

Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco, eaves the West Feliciana Parish Courthouse in the trial of nursing home owners Sal and Mabel Mangano.

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Senator faces scrutiny following sting



Joe Jaszewski / The Associated Press

Larry Craig, accused of lewd conduct in a men's room, declared Tuesday, "I am not gay" and said the only thing he did wrong was plead guilty to a criminal charge.

Craig says he isn't gay; GOP calls for investigation

Todd Dvorak
The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho - A defiant Sen. Larry Craig denied any wrongdoing Tuesday despite his guilty plea this summer in a men's room police sting, emphatically adding, "I am not gay. I never have been gay."

Craig, a third-term senator from Idaho, proclaimed his innocence as well as his sexuality less than an hour after Senate leaders from his own Republican Party called for an ethics committee review of his case.

"This is a serious matter," they said in Washington in a written statement that offered neither support nor criticism of the conservative senator. Issued in the names of Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the party leader, and several others, the statement said they were examining "other aspects of the case to determine if additional action is required."

Craig, his wife, Suzanne, at his side, took no questions in a brief appearance in the

capital city of the state he has represented in Congress for more than two decades in the House and then the Senate.

He had "overreacted and made a poor decision" when he was apprehended by an undercover police officer in a men's room at the Minneapolis airport and later pleaded guilty.

"While I was not involved in any inappropriate conduct in the Minneapolis Airport or anywhere else, I chose to plead guilty to a lesser charge in hopes of making it go away." He said he kept the information from his friends, family and staff, adding, "I wasn't eager to share this failure but I should have anyway because I am not gay."

Nor did he hire a lawyer, Craig said, although he now has retained counsel "to review the matter and advise me on how to proceed."

"I have brought a cloud over Idaho and for that I seek and ask the people of Idaho to forgive me," he said.

His account contrasted sharply with the complaint in the case, in which an undercover officer said that Craig, while occupying a stall in the men's room, engaged in actions "often used by

persons communicating a desire to engage in sexual conduct."

Craig was read his rights, fingerprinted and required to submit to a mug shot at the time of his arrest.

Police notes also show that on June 22, 11 days after the arrest, Craig returned to the police station and said no one had yet contacted him about his case. "Craig told me that he needs a contact so his lawyer can speak to someone," wrote the officer who spoke with the senator, Adam Snedker.

The senator signed and dated his guilty plea to a charge of disorderly conduct on Aug. 1, and court papers indicate it was submitted by mail and filed a week later. The court docket said Craig paid \$575 in fines and fees and was put on unsupervised probation for a year. A sentence of 10 days in the county workhouse was stayed.

Craig, up for re-election next year, said he would announce his plans next month. If anything, he sounded like a man inclined to seek six more years in the Senate.

"Over the years, I have accomplished a lot for Idaho, and I hope Idahoans will allow me to continue to do

that," he said.

Still, there already was speculation about a successor in the reliably Republican state. The Club for Growth, an anti-tax organization, issued a statement critical of Rep. Mike Simpson, whose name has been mentioned as a potential replacement candidate.

Regardless of Craig's plans, it was clear his political standing had suffered.

On Monday, he resigned from a prominent role with Republican Mitt Romney's presidential campaign, and the GOP White House hopeful was critical in an interview.

"He's disappointed the American people," Romney said on CNBC's "Kudlow & Company."

"Yeah, I think it reminds us of Mark Foley and Bill Clinton," he added. Foley was a Florida congressman who sent salacious e-mails to underage male House pages. Clinton, the former president, was impeached by the House and acquitted in the Senate after his dalliance with a White House intern.

Craig, 62, has faced rumors about his sexuality since the 1980s, but allegations that he had engaged in gay sex have never been substantiated. He

has denied the assertions.

Trying to put his actions "in context," Craig lashed out at the Idaho Statesman, the state's largest newspaper, accusing it of a witch hunt on the issue.

In their statement, the GOP Senate leaders did not say what other actions they were considering in connection with Craig.

Separately, a private group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, filed a complaint with the ethics committee seeking an investigation into whether Craig violated Senate rules by engaging in disorderly conduct.

The official police complaint on Craig's case was detailed.

It said airport police Sgt. Dave Karsnia, who was investigating allegations of sexual conduct in airport rest rooms, went into a stall shortly after noon on June 11 and closed the door.

Minutes later, the officer said he saw Craig gazing into his stall through the crack between the door and the frame.

After a man in the adjacent stall left, Craig entered it and put his roller bag against the front of the stall door, "which Sgt. Karsnia's experience has

indicated is used to attempt to conceal sexual conduct by blocking the view from the front of the stall," said the complaint, which was dated June 25.

The complaint said Craig then tapped his right foot several times and moved it closer to Karsnia's stall and then moved it to where it touched Karsnia's foot. Karsnia recognized that "as a signal often used by persons communicating a desire to engage in sexual conduct," the complaint said.

Craig then passed his left hand under the stall divider into Karsnia's stall with his palm up and guided it along the divider toward the front of the stall three times, the complaint said.

The officer then showed his police identification under the divider and pointed toward the exit "at which time the defendant exclaimed 'No!'" the complaint said.

The Aug. 8 police report says Craig handed the arresting officer a business card that identified him as a member of the Senate.

"What do you think about that?" Craig is alleged to have said, according to the report.



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CHURCHES ● Continued from 5

better life here.

“The precedent churches are setting by preserving the Spanish language while breaking down ethnic differences and encouraging the use of English is really at the vanguard of where the United States is heading,” said Anthony Stevens-Arroyo, a Brooklyn College professor emeritus and co-author of “Recognizing the Latino Resurgence in American Religion.”

“The definition of the United States as a great white Protestant nation is really up for grabs, and churches are doing an excellent job of preserving people’s identity and at the same time helping them function in contemporary society.”

The glue—the thing that allows churches like the Carpenter’s House to flourish as a multiethnic mosaic of Mexicans, Hondurans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans and Colombians—has been the Spanish language. Yet as the children of immigrants grow up, churches are recognizing that it’s either bolster Spanish with English or give up on the future.

A survey earlier this year by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life found that 77 percent of first-generation, churchgoing Hispanics in the United States choose churches with Hispanic clergy, Spanish-language services and a mostly Hispanic congregation. But as Hispanics become more established in this country, the hold loosens: 53 percent of second-generation Latinos attend ethnic congregations, while the numbers drop to 42 percent for the third generation and higher.

The Carpenter’s House sits in a red brick building just off a busy intersection in Humboldt Park, a northside Chicago neighborhood that is

predominantly Hispanic but gentrifying.

The Rev. Isaías Mercado, the son of Puerto Rican musicians, grew up in the neighborhood and founded the church four years ago in a Boys and Girls Club as a place of worship primarily in Spanish. Raised in Pentecostal churches, he began counseling at a methadone clinic and earned a master’s in divinity and a doctorate in ministry from Chicago’s McCormick Theological Seminary, part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Church members proudly call their pastor “Dr. Mercado.” To them, his credentials speak to the church’s emphasis on self-improvement, evidence that anyone can “go to a different level,” as Mercado says, with faith and hard work.

Mercado, 40, added an English service three months ago, hoping the church will become not only multicultural but multiracial, drawing blacks and whites from the neighborhood.

He also said he was listening to market forces — the people wanted it.

“It speaks to the fact that there is this Latino culture that is already having deep roots in North America,” he said.

Walter Rubio was born and raised in Guatemala and moved to the United States when he was 12, in awe of bologna and Doritos. Now raising his own family, Rubio attends English services at the Carpenter’s House.

“It’s simple,” said the 35-year-old construction worker. “My son and my daughter, they lean more toward English. If they understand it better, they get a better blessing.”

Mercado acknowledges one risk to separate services in English and Spanish: a house divided. To keep the communities from

splintering, he holds a joint bilingual service every three months.

Some second-and third-generation Latinos prefer Spanish as their language of worship. When a group of young adults lingered after the Spanish service at the Carpenter’s House, their small talk was in English, not Spanish.

“We grew up going to Spanish services,” said Abdiel Quiles, 28. “It just feels like home.”

About 70 people attend the English service, while more than 200 fill the church for the Spanish one.

There was one vivid contrast in the services: fervency. Unlike the relatively low-key English service, the Spanish worship ended with people crowded in the front, lifting their hands up high, reaching for tissue boxes as Mercado pressed his hands to foreheads and shouted prayers into a microphone.

Regardless of language, Mercado said later, “We need to keep that Latin way of worship, that enthusiasm.”

Just a few blocks away, in leased space at Roberto Clemente High School, another predominantly Latino Pentecostal church that started small entered the megachurch ranks after switching to English as its dominant language.

The change at New Life Covenant church was instigated by the Rev. Wilfredo DeJesus, who inherited the pulpit from his father-in-law and is more comfortable preaching in English, said administrative associate pastor Rico Altieri.

A decade after attendance hit a plateau at 150, the Assemblies of God church with outreach to drug addicts, prostitutes and gang members draws 4,000 per week to four services — three in English and one in Spanish, Altieri said.

S.C. follows nationwide trend of lower SAT scores

Palmetto State high schoolers rank 49th in standardized test

Seanna Adcox
The Associated Press

Average reading and math SAT scores for South Carolina high school students fell 1 point this year, compared to a 4-point decline nationally, according to results released Tuesday.

The state’s class of 2007 scored 488 out of a possible 800 points on the critical reading portion of the college entrance exam, up 1 point from 2006. Math scores fell 2 points to 496.

South Carolina’s combined average score of 984 ranked 49th nationally, ahead of Maine’s 931 and the District of Columbia’s 940. Nationally, the combined score fell to 1,017.

Average scores on the writing portion also slipped, down 5 points in South Carolina, to 475 points, and 3 points nationally, to 494. Many colleges are waiting to see results from the first few years on the writing exam before determining how to use it.

Significant increases in test scores will require finding a way to boost achievement for disadvantaged students statewide by filling vacancies with high-quality teachers and increasing parental involvement, South Carolina education Superintendent Jim Rex said.

“Attracting and retaining the better teachers

to teach in the most challenging schools is part of the answer,” said Rex, a Democrat elected last November.

While high-poverty schools tend to fare the worst, some manage to defeat the odds through innovative, charismatic leaders who expect children to succeed no matter what their background, Rex said.

The declines follow a seven-point drop last year for the first class to take the longer and redesigned SAT, which added the writing portion, included higher-level math questions and eliminated analogies. The College Board, which owns the exam, insisted the new exam wasn’t harder and attributed last year’s drop to fewer students taking the exam a second time.

Students typically fare about 30 points better when they take the exam again.

The College Board’s score report did not offer an explanation why this year’s scores were lower, but it did note that a record number of students — just short of 1.5 million — took the test.

The board discourages state-by-state comparisons because the percentages of students who take the test vary widely.

Iowa posted the highest scores, with a combined math and reading average of 1,221 and an overall 1,807 with the writing test. But only 4 percent of Iowa’s graduating seniors took the test.

In South Carolina, where participation is open to all students, 62 percent of graduating seniors took the

SAT, the same as last year. Just 16 other states and the District of Columbia had higher percentages taking the test. Maine had the highest participation, at 100 percent, followed by New York, with 89 percent. South Dakota had the lowest participation, at 3 percent.

The SAT has historically been more popular on the East and West coasts, while the ACT has been more popular in the Midwest and inland western states. More students are taking both exams to try to improve their college resumes.

In South Carolina, nearly 24,100 graduating seniors took the SAT. At least 89 percent of them attended public schools. Students who took courses recommended by the College Board scored 123 points better than those who did not.

“Our guidance counselors need to work with students and parents to make sure that they take those high-quality courses before they take either the ACT or SAT,” Rex said.

Rex said the state’s new virtual high school, which allows students to take classes online, should give students in small and rural schools better access to advanced courses. Rex said the state could consider paying SAT fees, nearly \$45 per test, for students who take the recommended courses.

Over the last decade, South Carolina’s scores have improved 31 points, compared to a 7-point increase nationwide since 1997.

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Textbook prices cause poor students despair

College students are poor as a rule. Even so, college bookstores insist on charging exorbitant prices for books that students sometimes don't even use over the course of the semester. Despite constant debate and discussion, students still seem to spend more on textbooks than Michael Vick does on lawyers. While textbooks will probably always be expensive, there are ways to ease the burden on students. For instance, professors could help matters by turning in textbook requests earlier, and the university bookstore could post the listings sooner than they do now.

Students still seem to spend more on textbooks than Michael Vick does on lawyers.

The earlier a student or store knows which books to buy, the more time they have to shop around for the lowest price instead of having to rush to buy it the day before classes start. Students could go online to buy books, avoiding the high costs and long lines that come with buying from stores at the last minute.

Another way to cut costs is for bookstores to carry more and cheaper used copies of books. While old copies of books are not as shiny or crisp as new ones, they still contain the same text.

Unless, of course, the dreaded "new edition" comes into play, in which case the responsibility of reducing textbook costs rests with professors.

Sometimes a new edition of a textbook reflects a fundamental change in the state of a field of study, but sometimes the differences between editions are trivial.

While professors should not use history books whose maps still include the Soviet Union, they must consider whether the changed photo caption on page 130 is worth forcing students to pay three times as much for a textbook.

Anything that lowers textbook prices would be a welcome change.

CORRECTIONS

In Tuesday's News section, Alpha Phi Alpha should have been listed as the Theta Nu chapter. The chapter president is Jeremy Faber.

The Daily Gamecock regrets the error.

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu.

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

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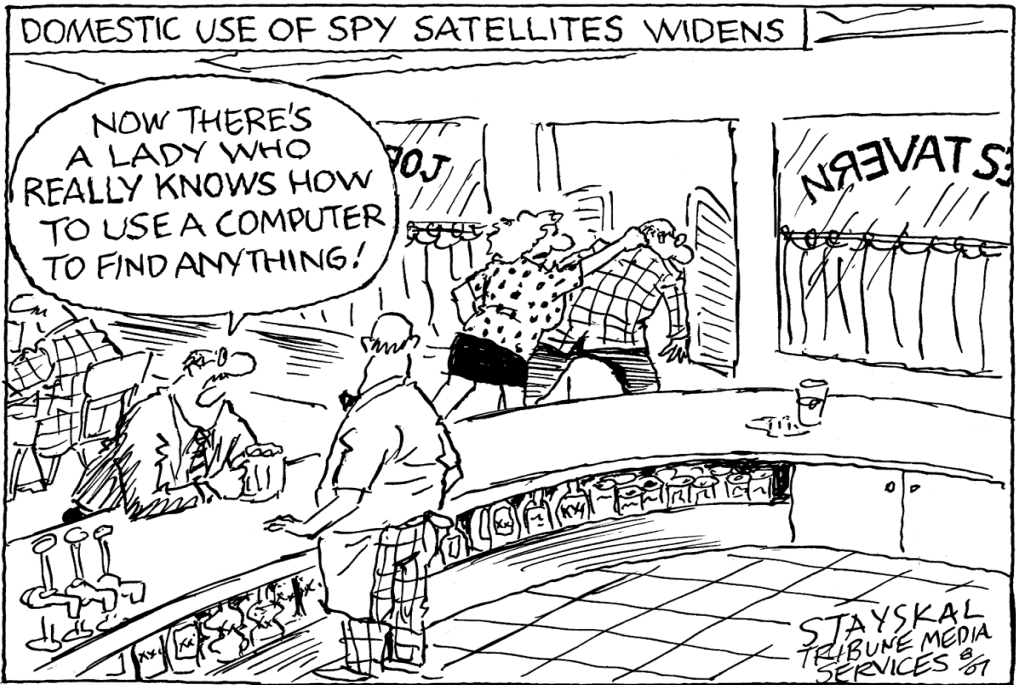
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Apple a day can't keep PC woes away

Steve Jobs is having a hearty chuckle behind the wheel of his Lexus right now.

Why, you ask? Because I, like so many other unsuspecting Americans of late, just got a MacBook. By most measures I would probably be considered a rational person, but I must admit that the folks at Apple snagged me with their minimalist product design and insufferably cute logo. From day one I have found that my laptop is like an overpriced French dinner: all about presentation but low on useful content.

Having worked with Windows machines from age seven, I must admit I was partially motivated by the allure of a brand new computing experience. After all the frustrations I had experienced wandering in the PC desert, I could not resist the promised land of crash-proof, no-nonsense technology. The Mac, it seemed, was the computer for the computer-illiterate.

Ah, to be young and naïve again. My actual experience with the Mac has been nothing like I so innocently expected. The

all-too-sleek keyboard is sprinkled with the plucked hairs of my frustration, and my Mac has witnessed enough ranting through its built-in webcam to develop some sort of childhood trauma-induced



PAUL BOWERS
First-year print journalism student

complex. If that smug Mac guy from the commercials were in the room with me, I'd like to defragment his hard drive, if the reader will catch my gist.

Aside from the usual problems with head-scratching software logistics and obscure error messages, I have been discovering all sorts of fun features on my Pandora's box. For instance, the geniuses at Top Secret Apple Development Labs in California decided to omit the right-click button from the built-in mouse apparatus. On some plane of reality I am certain this exclusion makes sense, but here in reality, it's asinine.

I have also had my

share of issues with those mythologized electronic entities known as "cookies." I cannot even begin to fathom what they are, but apparently there are three Internet settings for dealing with them on my Mac, none of which allow me to access sites that I need for my classes.

In short, my Mac experience has been rife with phantom e-mails, quirks and anxiety. As it would turn out, Mac computers are about as user-friendly as Mack trucks.

I hope that I am not misread as a PC snob. On the contrary, I believe that personal computing is one of the most counterproductive endeavors of the modern mind, whether on a clunky PC or a feminine Mac. Between the frustration of program malfunctions, and the futility of the technology zeitgeist, it is a wonder that we get any work done.

Much has been made of the superiority of, alternately, Macs and PCs, but I aim to take the high ground in this debate: I am buying a typewriter.

Furnished apartments lack taste, unique style

Generic feel leaves little room for personal decor, comfortable atmosphere

That pillow is a little too Independence Day for me. Red, white and blue is not exactly the color scheme I pictured for my first apartment, and that lamp looks like it belongs in a dentist's office.

When I look out my window I see an empty deck of unfurnished potential, but the plain white walls are beginning to make me go insane, and those faux

denim couches are definitely not going to match the pink curtains I brought from home. Since when did "furnished" mean making your room look like the hospital waiting lounge you dreaded as a kid?

The only productive thing I've done in the way of decorating since I moved in is realize nothing is going to match my mint green walls.

Oh and that reminds me, I have now officially lived in my "furnished" apartment for a whole week and am nowhere closer to having a TV stand or a bookshelf, neither of which where included in furnishings.

But hey, I did get a mattress in which I can feel every single spring and some patterned throw pillows that don't invite me to sit down but rather to throw up.

Returning curtain rods that don't fit and arguing about how you put a shelf together is not how I saw myself spending my first night in my apartment with my two favorite girls.

Instead of enjoying our new freedom we spent the night disagreeing on what color would best liven up our dull living room. And while buying a furnished apartment seemed like a time-saving way to avoid blowing the small college budget I have, it's taking more time and money to make what I have work with what I need.

I mean don't get me wrong, having a kitchen equipped to make something more than Easy Mac is amazing, and it's definitely a step up from the dorms, but seriously, shouldn't furnished apartments come with furnishings you might actually use?

My apartment has plenty of space, but where is the kind of furniture college students really need?

By the time I get back from classes all I want to do is eat a Hot Pocket while watching "The Hills." I have a very spacious dinner table, but what student doesn't want to sit down to eat in her own apartment at a dining room table after being stuck in an uncomfortable auditorium all day long?

After I catch "Greek" I want to go up to my room and have a place to put all my expensive books and a desk on which I can actually do some studying, big enough to hold more than just my laptop.

Would a bookshelf be too much to ask for? I'll trade you for a throw pillow.



CALLI BURNETT
Second-year international studies student

Finding do's, doughnuts of weight loss

Even without trans fats, Dunkin' Donuts is not right solution for dieting

In 2004 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 63% of US adults are considered obese. A large contributor to obesity is diet; what you eat and how much you eat obviously affects how much you weigh. However, America is promoting a healthier lifestyle in the wrong ways.

First New York City passed a law banning the use of any hydrogenated oils (trans fats), effective July 2008. The ban caused outrage among the New York restaurant business—the ban is "burdensome and unnecessary."

Next, Lays began using sunflower oil to fry its potato chips, reducing the amount of saturated fat by 66 percent while also changing the taste and grease factor. While I can appreciate the decrease in fat, and the grease factor, the taste change was less than satisfying. Monday morning Dunkin' Donuts announced that by October they will have eliminated of trans fats from their menu. Finally, the doughnut will be "good for you."

This is exactly the kind

of news that the anti-obesity movement did not need. The mission is to promote proper eating habits based on the newly revised food pyramid and increased daily activity, not making bad foods less bad for you. The basis of a healthy diet needs to consist of foods that are inherently healthier.

Giving the false conception that a doughnut suddenly will fit into your diet because it is fried in less fatty oil is ridiculous.

In addition to the doughnut now being a "nutritional" breakfast, there are diet systems such as Nutrisystem that advertise mind-boggling weight loss while still eating cheesecake. While this program has a science behind it, a diet should not include food traditionally thought of as highly fattening, even though this is a huge factor in the success of this product. You can lose weight without changing the way in which you eat.

While the idea that I can lose weight and

have my cake too is very appealing, we need to understand that balancing one's diet and caloric intake is what is going to make a difference in the number of obese in this nation.

As a nation we need to change our perception of healthy foods. Just because Dunkin' Donuts eliminated trans fats, going there every morning and having a cup of coffee and a doughnut for breakfast is obviously not a good idea.

Here at USC we have the Healthy Carolina initiative, which is meant to provide healthier choices to ward off the dreaded freshman 15. You can meet with a nutritionist and eat in dining halls such as the Patio Café in Patterson, which has calorie and carbohydrate information for every entrée. We also have the Strom Thurmond and Blatt P.E. Centers, with their many different exercise classes, fitness machines and other activities that promote exercise.

A change in the mindset of individuals towards lower calorie meals and more exercise will help drop pounds. This is the sort of change the nation needs, not a "low-fat" or "low-carb" doughnut.



CARLY GALLAGHER
Second-year public relations student

Breaking down the battle of the formats: HD DVD vs. Blu-Ray

Sony and Toshiba battle for dominance in the home video market

Tyler Mobley
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

A war is being waged. It's being fought by old men in expensive homes, greedy for more wealth. It is a war that will reward the victor with hundreds of millions of dollars. It is a war being fought to control you, and it all depends on whose copy of "Beerfest" you want to buy.

Over the past couple of years, major electronics and movie production companies have been taking sides over the next generation of home video formats. The contenders are Toshiba's HD DVD discs and Sony's Blu-Ray discs.

Now you may not have been aware that people were thinking ahead of regular DVDs yet. Maybe you thought you'd get to watch your \$9.99 copy of "The Notebook" forever.

Well, listen up. In a few years, one of these two formats will be the only choice you have, and your current DVDs will be going the way of those old VHS tapes collecting dust in your closet. Here's the difference between your current DVD collection and the generation that awaits you.

The next generation of home video will be distributed either through HD DVD or Blu-Ray discs. These discs provide a crystal clear picture that, believe it or not, is worlds prettier than current DVDs. Since HDTV will increasingly become a national standard in the coming years, next-gen discs will let your watch your favorite

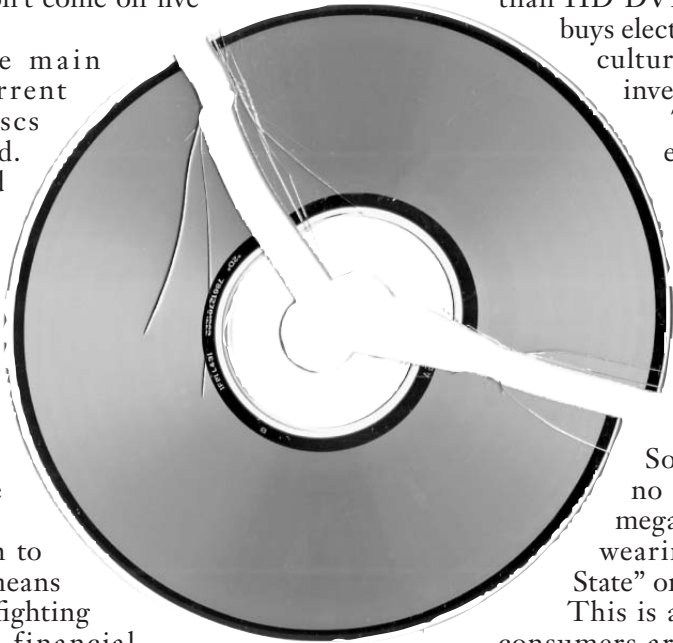
movies in true high definition on your HDTV.

Also, these new discs are capable of holding much more information than current DVDs. This means that your HD copy of "Scarface" won't come on five separate discs.

Technologically, the main difference between current DVDs and next-gen discs is the way they are played. Current DVD players and optical drives read discs with a standard red laser. However, next-gen discs are read with a blue laser that allows for faster speeds and more tightly packed data. Basically, companies can shove more junk onto one disc than they could in the past.

So what does this mean to you? Well, right now, it means that Sony and Toshiba are fighting for your awareness and financial support. Only one format can survive, and whoever does will have a hand in the profits of the entire home video market.

Presently, HD DVD players cost \$300-\$500 whereas Blu-Ray machines cost anywhere from \$500-\$1000. This price issue is at the heart of the battle and just may be Sony's undoing.



To lay it all out, Sony's Blu-Ray discs are technically superior because they can hold up to 20 gigabytes more data than HD DVD. Such capacity will be more advantageous than HD DVD in the long run, but no one really buys electronics for the long run. In a consumer culture, electronics and movies are not an investment. They are a luxury.

That HD DVD is substantially less expensive gives Toshiba a leg up to be sure, but it doesn't seal the deal.

In fact, over the past few months, Blu-Ray sales have typically almost doubled those of HD DVD. To clarify, those sales are still miniscule compared to traditional DVD sales, but they're something.

Right now, the best thing for consumers to do is absolutely nothing.

Someone is going to lose this war, and no one knows who. Until one Japanese mega-corporation emerges victorious, keep wearing out those old copies of "Garden State" on your regular DVD player.

This is a money-shoveling competition, and consumers are getting pressured into uncertain purchases. Maybe the picture will be clearer in a couple of years, but for now Toshiba and Sony can fight their own battle.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Bob Satterfield (Samuel L. Jackson), a homeless former boxing champion, profoundly influences Erik (Josh Hartnett)

‘Resurrecting’ a true knockout

Powerful performances, inspirational message bring indie film to life with unexpected twists, deep emotional impact

Chase Gibson
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

"Resurrecting the Champ"
★★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆

Rarely does a movie keep an entire theater captivated with emotion and inspiration, but "Resurrecting the Champ" is definitely an exception.

Josh Hartnett plays the part of Erik, a sportswriter with an inability to connect with his readers. Plagued by an overload of menial tasks, Erik stumbles upon a homeless man with a remarkable story.

Champ, played by Samuel L. Jackson, tells the struggling reporter that he is Bob Satterfield, boxing's former No. 3 in the world. Erik realizes that a heartfelt story about a boxing legend now living on the street could be just what he needs to save his career. In this story of fatherhood and self-discovery, both men are led down paths that inevitably change their lives forever.

Samuel L. Jackson's performance is, without a doubt, his most convincing and memorable to date. The emoting one-two punch of Hartnett and Jackson is enough to keep the audience dead silent, even in the humorous parts and well into the credits.

The only downside to the film is that it is often cliché: a man struggles to find himself as he lives in the shadow of his famous father, a down-and-out reporter happens to find his big break right before he is fired, a separated husband fights to maintain a healthy relationship with his son.

The good news is that these clichés only make up the first part of the film. If you try to predict the outcome of the movie within the first hour, you will be sadly mistaken.

For such an inspirational and deep film, "Resurrecting the Champ" has its fair share of twists.

An unbelievable amount of pressure falls on Erik's shoulders as he is given a timetable to finish what could be the

most important story of his career. That pressure, on top of his yearning to be a perfect dad, makes Champ's homeless-but-carefree living situation seem almost desirable. As it turns out, there is a lot to be learned by both men. The unlikely friendship between a reporter and a homeless man yields more life lessons than either could have imagined.

Smiles, tears and lots of post-movie discussion are to be expected of "Resurrecting the Champ." If you allow yourself to be absorbed by the film and overlook the conventional methods of the first half, then you will definitely be satisfied.

The ability of this film to evoke feelings of inspiration and hope in its viewers makes it the most compelling independent film of the year, and a true knockout.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

Logic puzzles, number games back in action

Sudoku, crosswords prove challenging job for fans, developers

Jeff Elder
McClatchy Newspapers

Question: Does a computer generate the Sudoku grid? How do you create crossword puzzles? What does the editor do? -- Michael Doerr, Springfield, Ill.

Answer: Computers do generate Sudoku number puzzles these days, says Mark Lagasse, a senior executive editor at Dell Puzzle Magazines in New York City. This company, which publishes more than 30 titles, introduced the puzzle we now call Sudoku way back in 1979.

"Unfortunately, there's no copyright in the puzzle world, so people can steal from you freely," Lagasse says. "We called the puzzle Number Place, and it has run for years. A guy in Japan saw the puzzle, and he adapted it, and then a guy in England saw that and adapted that."

And, just like that, 25 years later, the puzzle born as Number Place became an overnight sensation called Sudoku.

"Sudoku is solved completely with logic, so it's a good puzzle for a computer to construct," says Lagasse. "There are lots of puzzles a computer couldn't generate, like themed crossword puzzles. That would be like asking a computer to write a short story."

And, just like an editor at a literary magazine reading short stories, Lagasse and his colleagues "read" crosswords that contributors submit, and print the best ones. "Some people are really amazing at it," he says. "Others are not

and their puzzles can be very boring."

Dell pays "in the hundreds" for a 21-by-21-grid crossword with a theme. A puzzle like that might take a constructor weeks, or even months, to prepare. Some, these days, use computers to fill in the extreme edges of the puzzle.

Wonder if you've got what it takes to be a grid god? "I tell people to draw a tic-tac-toe grid and try to fill it in with words going across and down. Then move up to a four-by-four grid, then a five-by-five, etc."

Sudoku and crosswords are hot, if you hadn't noticed. People of all ages are addicted to Sudoku. To some, Will Shortz, crossword editor at The New York Times, is a celebrity. There are movies about puzzles, like the 2006 film "Wordplay." And many adults are turning to puzzles of all kinds to guard against Alzheimer's.

"Popularity goes in cycles," Lagasse says. "This is a golden age. In the 1920s, when crosswords were developed, they were considered very sexy."

There were Broadway musicals about them, and clothing and jewelry in crossword themes. Young people threw crossword parties.

I asked Lagasse if he had a favorite clue from a crossword of the past. The answer was "els," as in elevated trains found in Chicago and other cities.

The clue: "High rollers."

"Basically, what people should know about behind-the-scenes of the puzzle world is, puzzles are as fun to construct and edit as they are to solve."

The devil, he says, is in "a seven-letter word for 'Takes the wagger off a dog.'"

Tote bag trend takes off

Fashion-savvy consumers get carried away with environmentally friendly accessories

Kathy Flanigan
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE—Once the trademark of Birkenstock-wearing co-op shoppers, totes have gone mainstream—and upscale. Co-ops still sell them, as do Web sites such as hippyshopper.com and petacatalog.org. But so does Italian designer Consuelo Castiglioni for Marni.

Top designers like Hermes and Stella McCartney are seeing green, thanks to new fashion totes. This summer Hermes debuted the SilkyPop, a silk bag that folds small but carries a whopping \$960 price tag.

In June Stella McCartney added a \$495 organic cotton canvas tote bag to her collection.

Whole Foods sold out of the cheeky designer “I’m Not a Plastic Bag”

bags by British designer Anya Hindmarch before inventory could make it to the Milwaukee store. The \$15 totes are now available only on eBay, where they sell for as much as \$150.

And, grocery-store tote bags may not be designer-approved, but they’re popular enough to be flying off the shelves.

There are several reasons for the trend. Shoppers are becoming educated about the damage that discarded plastic bags do to the environment. Others appreciate the convenience, since the carry-alls do exactly that—if you can remember to take them into the store (a common lament that cashiers hear).

DO IT YOURSELF
Gina Johnson’s travels were well timed. Two years

ago the graphic designer went to Australia, where she observed shoppers reusing their grocery bags.

If it was big there, Johnson, 25, knew the trend would come to the States. And has it ever.

On her return home to West Bend, Wis., Johnson bought all the fabric samples left at a furniture store that was closing and made a tote for herself. Then she made more—some for friends, others for gifts. She started making bigger totes to hold a lot of groceries and smaller ones for last-minute trips to the market.

“My main purpose was to use the fabric from the furniture store,” Johnson said.

Then friends told her they were using the totes for the shopping mall. Another told her she used the bag to haul



Alison Stinchcomb / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Courtney Robinson, Hamida Ravenel and Octavia Ware show off their tote bags.

bigger items from place to place.

Johnson promotes her creations as “the fashionable way to eliminate paper and plastic” and calls them her “Save the Earth” bags.

They are also Johnson’s save-her-sanity bags.

Johnson, who works at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Continuing Education, makes the bags as a way to relieve the stress of being in front of a computer all day.

Since July, Johnson has been selling her totes at the

Milwaukee Public Market’s outdoor marketplace on Saturdays. Small totes sell for \$25; larger ones go for \$30.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

“Bioshock” stuns video gamers



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

“Bioshock” allows gamers to discover a great variety of customizable weapons and abilities.

“Heroes of Mana” finally brings real-time strategy to Nintendo DS

Billy O’Keefe
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

“BIOSHOCK”
For: Xbox 360 and PC
From: Irrational Games/2K Games
ESRB Rating: Mature (blood and gore, drug reference, intense violence, sexual themes, strong language)

“Bioshock’s” supreme greatness comes down to three factors, each of which could fill this review’s space and then some in its own right.

Factor No. 1: variety. In terms of weapon selection alone, “Bioshock” is a terrific first-person shooter, boasting a healthy roster of guns and drastically different ammo types for each. All weapons are upgradeable, and you can craft special ammo from junk littered throughout the game world.

But where most shooters end, “Bioshock” merely begins, allowing you to outfit your character with a trove of genetic modifications—telekinesis, fireballs, enemy possession, a portable insect swarm and so much more—that make your guns look downright impotent. When all else fails, you also can hack various machinery—security cameras, gun turrets, bots—to work for instead of against you.

Thanks to factor No. 2, technical polish, all things are possible. “Bioshock’s” artificial intelligence is brilliantly alive, and the gorgeous world of Rapture, a mid-20th century underwater utopia gone horribly wrong, is your playground as result. Your weapons and genetic powers work together in all manners of creative ways, and the game leaves you free to play to whatever strengths you have as a gamer.

It doesn’t hurt, either, that everything just works. The controls

are perfect, the frame rate’s rock-solid, and a clever respawn system allows the game to lay it on thick while also allowing players of all abilities, with persistence, to see it through to the end.

That brings us to factor No. 3: the presentation.

Put simply and without spoiling even the intro, “Bioshock’s” 20-ish-hour storyline belongs on the same pedestal as the best of science fiction entertainment, regardless of medium. Few games possess the ability to genuinely creep you out, and fewer can do so with their tongue simultaneously planted in cheek. Only one, this one, can do all that while “How Much is That Doggy in the Window?” plays on a bullet-riddled jukebox while you fight for your life.

The supernova of discovery, polish and beauty makes “Bioshock” an obvious candidate for multiplayer, and the lack of any such mode is the game’s only true drawback. Fortunately, that same explosion gives “Bioshock” a level of replay value most shooters, multi-player or not, will never achieve. Plenty of great ones will hit Xbox Live this fall, but none will do even half of what this one does so splendidly.

“HEROES OF MANA”
For: Nintendo DS
From: Square-Enix
ESRN Rating: Everyone 10+ (language, mild fantasy violence)

Yes, first impressions are important. Sometimes, though, lasting impressions matter more. Just ask anyone who gives “Heroes of Mana” more than a couple hours of their time.

It isn’t a pretty sight at first. Players have been waiting a long time for a real-time strategy game to arrive on the Nintendo DS, and Square-Enix initially appears to fumble the opportunity entirely. “Mana’s” derivative, dreadfully slow introduction is a buzz killer, and the oppressive level of handholding in the

opening levels does little to alter the perception that this is anything more than a strategy game for babies.

But around the third mission—as if it’s reading your mind—the game loosens the leash and eases up on the storytelling. Not surprisingly, the experience improves exponentially from there.

Around the same time, “Mana” starts to pull the covers off its potential, allowing for the creation of more facilities and detailing a surprisingly strong chain of power for its various unit classifications. While the game never reaches the same level of complexity as a “Starcraft” or “Company of Heroes,” the self-contained mythos it creates allows it to challenge you in different but similarly gratifying ways.

That said, this is still a DS game, and no DS game will ever be privy to the same level of horsepower a PC strategy game receives. “Mana’s” battlefields are impressive for a portable game with 16-bit graphics, but they’re modest by RTS standards. Unit information is similarly limited, making it hard to research various units and exploit enemy weaknesses.

Most notable of all is the game’s stunted artificial intelligence. Units respond to commands, but they commonly experience more difficulty than they should in getting from points A to B. Sometimes they take the long way around. Other times, they stop completely. Usually, they get where they’re supposed to go, but it’s wise to keep an eye on crucial units when they’re on the move. You just never know.

In spite of that rather notable problem, “Mana” perseveres and emerges as a fun validation of the DS’ ability to handle real-time strategy. It’s visibly flawed, but it works, and the stylus controls make it easy to select multiple units and zip around the map. The aforementioned issues and omission of online multiplayer keep this one from being all it could be, but at least the ball is finally rolling

Anyone can benefit by being an active listener

Conversation skills not limited to speaking; Golden Rule applies to communication as well

Doug Worgul
McClatchy Newspapers

Perhaps the most affirming thing one person can do for another is to listen well.

Easier said than done.

Speaking one’s mind is an easy two-step process: 1. Open mouth. 2. Empty contents of brain.

Listening is harder.

The external and internal distractions are many. Televisions, computers, headsets and cell phones are everywhere. Our mental to-do lists need attending. Fears and anxieties whisper in our ears. Deadlines scream. And that last song we heard on the car radio just will not go away.

But listening well actually reduces mental and environmental noise. By tuning in when someone talks to you, you reduce static.

“Remember that your listening is a great gift,” says Lorrie Eagles, a communications consultant and leadership coach. “In our extremely action-and-results-oriented society, really listening and giving the person your time and attention is all too rare and very special.”

When someone wants to talk to you, stop what you’re doing. Put down the newspaper. Take off your headphones. Turn off the TV. Pay attention to the other person. Make eye contact. Look at the person speaking to you.

Turn your body toward the person -- this communicates interest in the other person and a willingness to listen patiently. When your body is turned away, it communicates impatience and a desire to escape the conversation.

If you are seated, lean slightly toward the

person without encroaching on his personal space. This also communicates interest. Leaning away from the other person communicates disinterest.

Remember the Golden Rule: Listen to others as you would have them listen to you. The person speaking to you needs something. It may be relatively insignificant: what did you think of the game last night? Or something more serious: I’m worried about my marriage. The speaker may need validation, emotional support, an objective opinion, or perhaps only to share the joys or frustrations of an experience. These are fundamentally human needs. Sooner or later you’ll need them, too.

Ask interested questions, Eagles says. “When there is an actual pause in the conversation, a directly relevant question demonstrates interest and encourages the person to say more.”

Don’t interrupt. It’s rude, and it communicates that you think what you have to say is more important than what they have to say.

Be patient. Not everyone is succinct.

Think about what the person is saying, not about what you plan to say next.

When you respond, make your responses shorter rather than longer. Longer responses may make the other person feel as if you’re hijacking the conversation. It also suggests that instead of listening you were preparing your long response.

Despite the old saying that “communication is a two-way street” try to listen twice as much as you speak. There’s another old saying—“We were born with two ears and one mouth.” You do the math.

Would you bench Blake Mitchell?

weigh in at DailyGamecock.com

PIC OF THE DAY



Dropping Daylight performs outside of the Russell House Tuesday

Graeme Foust/ THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Whiteboard ♦ By Bobby Sutton



Falling Rock ♦ By Josh Shalek



Sept. 5th

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CAREER FAIR BLITZ 2007

On the stands a week before the career fair, so you can be ready!

advertising deadline: Aug. 30th

Sudoku

By The Mephram Group

8/29/07

3

2

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2

9

3

1

7

2

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Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play

Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 8/28/07

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the scene at USC

Whole Wheat Bread

WHOLE WHEAT BREAD, THE HOTNESS, AND MIKENPIKE
\$10, 6 p.m.
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

MR. B'S GOODTIME KARAOKE EXPLOSION
The Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

REHAB, THE CRAZY ANGLOS
\$15, 8:30 p.m.
Headliners Mainstage, 700 Gervais St.

PAPRIKA
\$5.50, 3p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m.
The Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

HOROSCOPES

Aries Don't second-guess your orders, just make sure you know what they are. Conditions are changing quickly.

Taurus The controversy rages. You don't have to get involved in the actual conflict. Listen to all sides and learn a lot.

Gemini You don't have to take the very first thing that comes along. The choice that's best for you will be very obvious.

Cancer You're impatient to go but one thing or another gets in the way. Don't be frustrated. Better to be delayed in a familiar place.

Leo It's not a good time to gamble. Postpone a romantic interlude. Don't even buy yourself a treat. Exercise self-discipline.

Virgo The situation looks difficult now but it won't be this way forever. Don't stress about the costs; start thinking of ways to earn the money.

Libra You'll have to come up with a few different ways of doing things in order to succeed. Several methods you try won't work, even if you found them in books.

Scorpio You'd like to do everything for everybody, but you can't.

Sagittarius You'll have to be creative to profit during this confusion. Luckily, you are. You do some of your best work under pressure.

Capricorn You're in a tough situation but you're also up for this. You're quick, imaginative and you refuse to be intimidated.

Aquarius The money's coming in but it's not reliable. You need some you can depend upon. And, meanwhile, don't waste what you have.

Pisces As you finish one job, you should start planning out the next.

Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 8/29/07

Brought to you by:

ACROSS

1 Asian desert

5 Mary's follower

9 Reinvigorated

14 Bates or King

15 Strongly assert

16 Unverified info

17 Coating of ice

18 Solitary

19 Old-womanish

20 Two rooms?

23 Rolodex info

24 Camera letters

25 Roller coaster unit

28 Per person

31 Spring holy day

36 Commotions

38 Wyle or Webster

40 Vikinglike

41 Two rooms?

44 Beethoven dedicatee

45 Espied

46 Old SSS category

47 Play the wrong suit

49 Went fast

51 Night school subj.

52 Mauna __ volcano

54 Bill's partner?

56 Two rooms?

64 "The __ Archipelago"

65 Hydrox rival

66 Cookbook author

Rombauer

67 Mountain ridge

68 Go on a tirade

69 Puffed up

70 To the point

71 On the sheltered side

72 Diminutive ending

2 Musical medley

3 The Crimson Tide, to fans

4 Physically inactive

5 W. Coast state of mind?

6 Makeup marketer

7 Fix

8 Makes beer

9 Like a rose

10 Ladder part

11 Jannings of old films

12 Lone

13 Otto I's realm

21 One of the Tweedles

22 __-de-France

25 Pole of Highland games

26 Dancer Astaire

27 "The Thinker" sculptor

29 Corn holders?

30 Rabbits' kin

32 NYC district

Solutions from 8/28/07

O A T S

O V A L

H O P E

S W E D E

A N T

S A O P A

C U T E

A R E N A

P U R P L E

V A L L E T

A C E

R H O

Y E S

D A C A P O

E N A M E L

E D I A M O N D

S C I S

C O U N T R Y

P A U L O

S U I T S

S E P A R A T E

P L E H E A R T

A L S O

G A R D E N S

E T O I L E

S E D A K A

ACT

BAY

ESP

THE

CLUB

SHINY

OMIT

SY S

KYLE

AXMEN

SPADE

EGGS

LIES

33 Threefold

34 Medieval serfs

35 Majestic

37 Freelancer's enc.

39 Dickens character

42 Nightgown

43 Short account

48 Very long time

50 Buck's mate

53 Spartan market

55 Popeye's gal

56 Fisherman's decoy

57 Robert of "The Sopranos"

58 Brewery vessels

59 Asian sea

60 Oahu goose

61 Unruly kid

62 Skip over

63 Decrease gradually

64 Hood's heater

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NFL FANTASY PICKS

COMPILED BY:
CORY BURKARTH
AND
MICHAEL AGUILAR

Who's going to have a career year? Who's going to be a bust? And who will be the breakout player of the 2007 NFL season?

TOP 10 RUNNING BACKS

1. LaDainian Tomlinson – Here is the real question: Could you pick anyone else? Tomlinson is the all-around most talented player in the NFL. If he can avoid injury like he has the rest of his career, then he could make your team an immediate playoff contender.

2. Joseph Addai – I know he hasn't really proven himself yet, but you can't

argue with the Colts' offense. He has the physical and mental ability to be a star running back in the NFL, so it's unlikely that you're going to find him around after the first or second round in any league.

3. Steven Jackson – Jackson has steered away from injury so far in his career. He's all that the Rams have to depend on, so that

could be good or bad. If he stays healthy then he's as good as gold, but if he gets overworked he could let you down at the end of the season.

4. Larry Johnson – The workhorse in Kansas City will back for another year now that he has the contract that he wants. Then he'll be

RUNNINGBACKS ● 11



special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson rushed for a record 31 TD's last season.

TOP 10 RECEIVERS

1. Chad Johnson – I think I heard somewhere that they were going to start awarding fantasy points for end-zone celebrations. That would make Johnson into the overall number one pick. He'll perform the same this season as he has his whole career.

2. Steve Smith – He wants to stay healthy this season in order to rebuild his reputation. And what Steve wants, Steve gets. He is the best NFL wide receiver threat to get yards and touchdowns by rushing, receiving and returning.

3. Marvin Harrison – To be honest, these top three could all switch places in any given order and you wouldn't lose too much in any direction. Harrison is the best receiver to play the



special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Lions WR Roy Williams had 7 touchdowns last season.

RECEIVERS ● 11



special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Colts quarterback Payton Manning was the MVP of the Super Bowl last season.

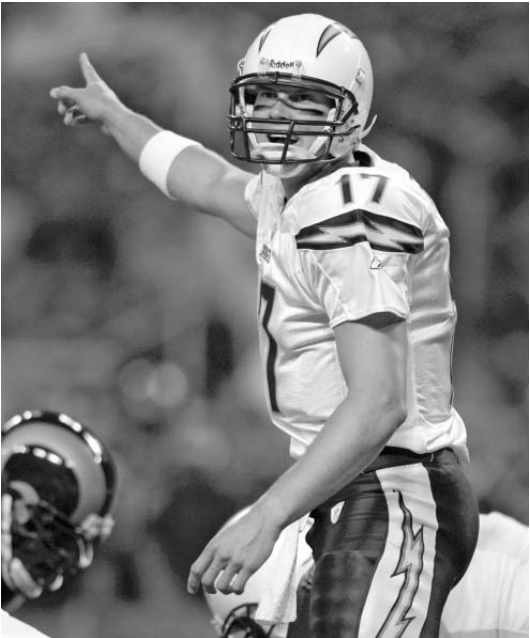
TOP 10 QUARTERBACKS

1. Drew Brees- He led San Diego to the playoffs in 2005 season before getting run out of town. Then, last season, he went to a team expected to be in the cellar of the NFC south division and took them to the conference championship. I predict he throws 28 touchdowns this season.

2. Peyton Manning- As long as he has Marvin Harrison, Manning will always be at the top of any fantasy list. He threw 31 touchdowns last season and it wouldn't be a surprise to see him repeat that.

3. Carson Palmer- His 28 touchdowns last year would make him a great addition to any team, but his 13 interceptions make him a liability this season. His receivers let him down last year, but Chad Johnson is already promising a breakout year.

4. Alex Smith- This is going to be the beginning of beautiful things for San Francisco. Smith is going to lead the 49ers to the playoffs this year, and he was available late in many drafts. Having him as your



special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Chargers quarterback Phillip Rivers threw 22 TD's and only 9 interceptions in 2006.

QUARTERBACKS ● 11

TOP 10 DEFENSES

1. Baltimore- Ray Lewis hasn't lost a step, and his leadership will carry Baltimore deep into the playoffs.

2. New England- Their linebackers could be at the top of the league, and if they can stop the run, look out.

3. Chicago- This is the

only reason the Bears made it to the Super Bowl last year, and if they had a good quarterback, they'd have had a shot at winning it.

4. Oakland- Their defense was the only bright spot for the Raiders last year.

5. Minnesota

6. Dallas- Wade Phillips

knows defense, and Dallas' defenders won't have to be that great to win the NFC-East.

7. Carolina- Julius Peppers and Mike Rucker could be the best end duo in the league, and the Panthers

DEFENSE ● 11

TOP 10 SLEEPERS

TOP 5 KICKERS

1. Robbie Gould- Made 32 of 36 field goals last year and made all 47 PATs.

2. Jeff Wilkins- Made 32 of 37 field goals and made all 35 PATs.

3. Matt Stover- Made 28 of 30 field goals and was perfect in all 37 PATs.

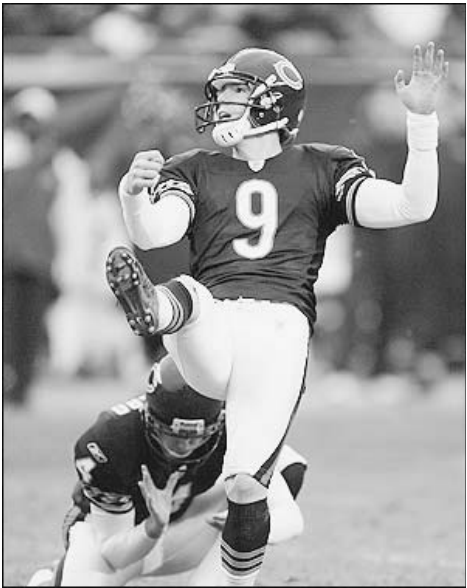
4. Adam Vinatieri- Made 25 of 28 field

goals and made all 38 PATs, not to mention his solo role in two Super Bowl wins for the Patriots.

5. Jason Elam- Made 27 of 29 field goals and was 34 for 34 after touchdowns.

Jonathan Daniel / Getty Images

Robbie Gould kicks the game winning field goal last year against Seattle.



special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Jeff Garcia is now the QB in Tampa Bay.

1. Sidney Rice – I mean, did you honestly think you were going to make it out of this without some shameless plug for Gamecock football?

2. Randy Moss – If Moss decides to show up and buy into Belichick's system then it will have the Brady fans crowing and me crying.

3. Terrell Owens – He had a terrible season last year— if you don't count the 13 touchdowns. You can't take him early because he might not play the whole season.

4. Maurice Jones-Drew – Drew showed great potential last season, but this season it could be between him and Addai for the successor to LaDainian Tomlinson's throne as the fantasy running back king.

5. Jeff Garcia – He doesn't have a ton around him, but he has been wallowing in

SLEEPERS ● 11

Gamecocks ready for Ragin' Cajuns

Youth movement on defense could benefit Carolina

Chris Cox
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Steve Spurrier held his first mid-week press conference of the 2007 football season Tuesday afternoon in front of reporters in the South end zone of Williams-Brice Stadium. Spurrier touched on a number of topics ranging from Louisiana-Lafayette and Blake Mitchell to the core of freshmen on this season's roster. However, what can be most noted was what Spurrier had to say about the leadership and experience on this year's football team.

Offensively, only one true freshman has earned a spot on the opening game depth chart—fullback Patrick DiMarco. Experience and leadership is found throughout on the offensive side of the ball with experienced players such as Kenny McKinley, Cory Boyd, and William Brown.

Defensively, the younger players have made their mark with a much bigger impact than on offense. Travian Robertson, a true freshman from Laurinburg, NC, has earned the starting spot at defensive end above Jordin Lindsey, who has not received much practice time during fall camp due to questions about his academic status.

At the other end spot, true freshman Cliff Matthews is listed on the second-team behind 2006 freshman All-American Eric Norwood. Other true

freshmen that made the two-deep includes Melvin Ingram, Ladi Ajiboye and Addison Williams.

Despite the one freshman starter, experience is all around the Carolina team, most notably at the running back position and in the secondary.

"The secondary is fairly well set," Spurrier said. "We really have a lot of seasoned players with experience in our secondary. So, we think we're going to be better on defense and hopefully we'll prove it Saturday night."

One seasoned player the Gamecocks will not have at their disposal is fifth-year senior Blake Mitchell, who has been Carolina's starting quarterback for the first two seasons under Steve Spurrier. Mitchell was suspended earlier in the week for the opening game due to excessive absences during the summer semester.

Spurrier discussed the level of difficulty in being without his veteran quarterback.

"These guys have been rotating throughout the preseason. Chris Smelley, Tommy Beecher and Blake (Mitchell), they've been rotating. They've all been in the scrimmages. Statistically they've been pretty close; they're all about the same," Spurrier said. "No one has really outplayed the other predominately."

Calling Saturday's game against the Ragin' Cajuns "a good challenge," Spurrier said, "hopefully we can play our best."

Comments on this story?
E-mail gcksprts@gwm.sc.edu

SLEEPERS • Continued from 10

NFL purgatory, showing last season that he is way too good to be there.

6. Warrick Dunn – This is gamble because Dunn may finally become too old and too small. However he hasn't lived up to those expectations yet so I doubt he'll start now.

7. Priest Holmes – He won't be a bad backup to have if Larry Johnson gets hurt or ends up holding out for the whole season. He won't be a bad backup to have in any case.

8. Jay Cutler – He was everyone's favorite new quarterback. If you're looking for a backup hopefully he's now "the guy that used to be everyone's favorite quarterback but he had an average season so now they all forgot about him" and you could end up with a great quarterback at your number two spot.

9. Matt Schaub – I've always said that he should have been starting in Atlanta for the last five years. That means I've got to stand behind him now. Admittedly, he has no offensive line (surprise Houston!) but he has the talent to be a great quarterback.

10. Texans Defense – I'm seriously predicting rookie CB Fred Bennett will break Dick "Night Train" Lane's 55-year-old INTs in a season record. Look for Bennett to pick off at least 16 passes and return every single one for a touchdown.

DEFENSE • Continued from 10

defense is setup for success this year.

8. New Orleans

9. Jacksonville- Last year's fourth ranked scoring defense will have a strong season.

10. Miami- Joey Porter, Zach Thomas, and Jason Taylor: three guys you don't want to see on the other side of the ball.

RUNNINGBACK • Continued from 10

motivated to do as much, if not more, work than last year.

5. Shaun Alexander – Now that he's no longer haunted by the Madden Curse, expect Alexander to be back to his true form this year.

6. Frank Gore – The most underappreciated running back in the NFL is finally getting some publicity, but that doesn't mean your

ignorant teammates know about him. Grab him as soon as you can.

7. Rudi Johnson – With the consistent air attack from Palmer, Johnson and Houshmandzadeh, there is no defense in the league that can focus on him. This sets him up for his fourth consecutive 1,300 yard season.

8. Brian Westbrook – His success depends on McNabb's managing to stay healthy for the whole season. If Westbrook doesn't get

overused he's a steal.

9. Clinton Portis – He's ready to live up to the hype that he received coming into last season. This is not to say that 500 yards and seven touchdowns in only half a season isn't good.

10. Travis Henry – Let's put it this way, if Mike Shanahan were stuck with a three-toed sloth for a running back it would rush for at least 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns. Imagine what Travis Henry will do.

QUARTERBACKS • Continued from 10

second quarterback would be a very wise move.

5. Phillip Rivers- With an offensive genius like Norv Turner as his head coach, Rivers is going to shine even more than he did last year with 22 touchdowns and 9 interceptions. He will throw more touchdowns this season and no more than nine interceptions this year.

6. Tom Brady- He's now a daddy, but if Tom Brady throws 12 interceptions like he did last year, he may be crying to his mommy. He threw 24 touchdowns last year, but his decision-making

ability could get him a few extra touchdowns this year.

7. Steve McNair- Steve McNair could very well take the Ravens to the AFC title game this year. He's got some miles on his legs, but I'd take his all around abilities over a healthy Michael Vick.

8. Tony Romo- As long as it doesn't involve holding the extra point snap, Romo will continue to be in the conversation about good quarterbacks for years to come. He isn't too mobile, but if Terrell Owens stays healthy this year, he won't have to be.

9. Marc Bulger- The Rams just showed him the

money, and he'll return the favor by throwing plenty of touchdowns this year. He's not exactly mind-blowing outside of the pocket, but the modern-day Rams like to make their big plays through the air.

10. Damon Huard- He's got the job in Kansas City, so now it's time for the veteran quarterback to show he deserves it. He threw 11 touchdowns with one interception while filling in for an injured Trent Green. His numbers won't be as one-sided, but they'll be enough to make him a second quarterback on any team.

RECEIVERS • Continued from 10

game since Jerry Rice... 'Nuff said.

4. Anquan Boldin – If Boldin had put up the numbers he's put up in Arizona anywhere else, then people would be billing him as the best young receiver in years. Matt Leinart is gaining experience, which could gain you points if Boldin is a part of your squad.

5. Reggie Wayne – I think that my fantasy strategy this year is to draft the entire Colts offense and just see how that works out.

Anyone in this system is a safe bet.

6. Torry Holt – Marc Bulger's career passer rating averages out to 91.3. I think mine would too if I could throw the ball far and just let Holt run underneath it.

7. T.J. Houshmandzadeh Remember that strategy with the Colts offense? I'm amending it— just draft whoever is available from either the Colts or Bengals offense.

8. Roy Williams – With Calvin Johnson in town, defenses can't focus on Williams like they could last year. With less coverage

on him, a repeat or better of his 1300 yard, 7 touchdwn season is to be expected.

9. Plaxico Burress Burress has the athletic talent and the physical build to be a nearly unstoppable receiver. Now if he can get a quarterback to show up this year he'll be everything you need and more.

10. Marques Colston – I just realized this is the first Saints player I've put in any of my top ten. Sean Payton's offensive schemes will have Mr. Irrelevant of 2006 once again silencing any and all critics of CAA football.

U-Wire Collegiate Sports Writer Poll

CSTV and U-Wire bring you the First U-Wire College Football Poll. Similar to the Associated Press and USA Today polls, the U-Wire poll is voted on by sports editors from different colleges around the country who are a part of the news article network.



The Daily Gamecock's own Alex Riley will give up the national top 10 every week as well as his ballot for that week's poll. Today's inaugural poll.

National Top 10 Alex Riley's Ballot

1	Southern California (26)	Southern California
2	LSU (1)	LSU
3	West Virginia	West Virginia
4	Michigan	Florida
5	Florida (1)	Michigan
6	Texas	Texas
7	Wisconsin	Wisconsin
8	Oklahoma	Virginia Tech
9	Virginia Tech	Louisville
10	Louisville	Oklahoma

STUDENT MEDIA

INTEREST MEETINGS

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The Daily Gamecock
www.dailygamecock.com
Interested in newspaper production, reporting, writing, layout, design, public relations or advertising? Then, get the scoop at our interest meeting:

Thursday, August 23rd
8:00 PM, RH 322/326

Tuesday, August 28th
8:00 PM, RH 302

Wednesday, August 29th
8:00 PM, RH 315

Tuesday, September 4th
8:00 PM, RH 205

STUDENT MAGAZINE

garnet&black
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Monday, August 27th
7:00 PM, RH 315

Thursday, August 30th
7:00 PM, RH 315

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